

Managing Conflict Cooperatively in Mental Health Systems

Collaborative for Conflict
Management in
Mental Health

Lake of the Ozarks, May 28-30, 2003



What Does Conflict Mean to You?

List 10 words that come to mind when you think about conflict



Conflict can be Useful

- *****Conflict is a fact of life
- **★Conflict can encourage examination of values**
- **★People can learn new skills to manage and resolve conflict**
- **★**Destructive consequences are not inevitable
- **★**Disputes can stimulate creative change



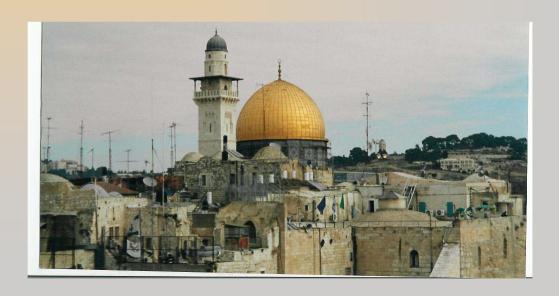
Overview of Workshop

- *How we manage conflict in our daily lives
- *How conflict affects the mental health system
- **★**What is ADR? How is it useful?
- *Examples of ADR in mental health
- *Conflict management skills



Our Cultural Experience of Conflict

"Hey Buck, what's a feud?"



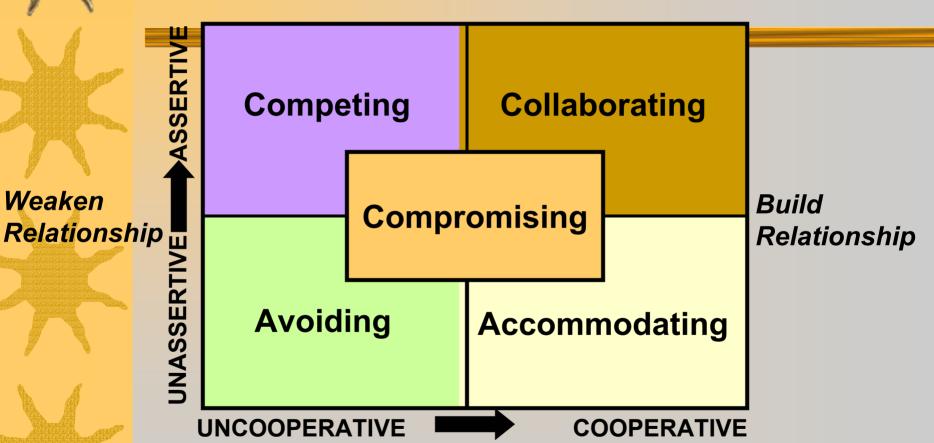


Interpersonal Conflict Styles

- *Fighting fair
- *Split the difference; give a little, get a little
- **★Find a win-win solution**; look for a third option
- ★The golden rule; look out for the other guy's interests
- ★Don't go looking for trouble; good fences make good neighbors



5 Common Responses to Conflict



Adapted from Thomas-Kilman Conflict Mode Instrument by Kenneth W. Thomas & Ralph H. Kilman, Xicom, Incorporated, 1974.



Conflict in the Mental Health System



Trends In Mental Health

- **★ Increasing racial and ethnic diversity**
- * Recognition of trauma and abuse histories
- ***** Criminal justice systems involvement
- * Co-occurring MH/SA disorders
- * Systems integration
- **★** Public fears about violence
- **★** Shrinking resources/managed care
- **★** Increasing consumer partnerships



Case Study: A Friend Wants a Cigarette





Its Not About the Dry Cleaning

Patient Emotion	Event	Staff Emotion		
← Volu	ntary Admit 7	#1 →		
← Smoking Dispute →				
← Treatment Refusal, Invol. Status ←				
← ————————————————————————————————————				
Transfer to Hospital #2				
← Dry Cleaning Request →				
← D	oischarge	→		



Disputes in the Mental Health System

- *May involve strong emotions, complex issues
- **★**Parties have ongoing relationships
- *Accompanied by historical hierarchical relationships
- *May include multiple players, issues, agencies



Continuum of Coercion

High

- Involuntary ECT, psychosurgery, sterilization, abortion
 - Forced administration of meds. anywhere
 - Physical restraint or seclusion in anywhere
 - Extended involuntary incarceration
 - Court ordered community treatment
 - Forced disrobing, body searches, med. exams
 - Intrusive procedures w/ opposite gender staff
- 72-hour emergency eval in psych hospital



Continuum Of Coercion

Use of guardianships/conservatorships One-to-one monitoring in any setting Restrictive settings or services Threats or pressure to engage in above Controlling access to resources Restricting choice, Guiding decisions Labeling and diminishment of credibility Direct, friendly persuasion & inducements Strategic presentation/withholding info.



Coercion: A Non-Solution

★Coercion flows from and worsens power imbalances

★May lead to reluctance to use services

*May be retraumatizing



What is ADR and How is it Useful in the Mental Health System?



Definition of Terms

- ***ADR**: alternatives to the legal system for the resolution of disputes
- **★ Conflict management**: a proactive stance looking at systems approaches to dealing with the inevitability of conflict
- **★ Mediation**: a form of ADR that uses a 3rd party neutral, levels power imbalances, and helps parties to come up with their own solutions



Past and Current Uses of ADR

- *Labor Disputes
- **★**Environmental Disputes
- *Healthcare Disputes
- *Courts
- **★**Family and Divorce
- **★**Workplace/EEO/ADA Complaints
- *Disputes in Schools and Communities



ADR: A Third Perspective in the Mental Health System

Clinical

Patients

Symptoms

Assess, diagnose treat

Clinical judgment Legal **ADR**

Clients

Differences Rights violations

Represent & advocate

Legal decision

Collective solution

Parties

Facilitate discussion



ADR: Consistent with Recovery

	Recovery	ADR
	Hopeful orientation	Win-win solutions
	Sense of personal control	Parties control outcome
P	Focus on basic needs	Underlying issues
10	Personal voice	Parties tell their stories
	Meaning in experience	Look to lessons learned
	Connections with others	Preserves relationships
	Coping skills	Skills in conflict mgt
	Helping others	Focus on all parties



Forms of ADR/Conflict Management

- ***** Identifying issues, bringing parties to table
- **★** Facilitated discussion, dialogue
- **★** Use of conflict management skills
- * Negotiation
- * Advocacy
- * Mediation (formal and informal)
- * Arbitration (binding and non-binding)
- * Litigation
- * Restorative justice and reconciliation



Advocate

Mediator

- * Works for client
- * Takes position
- * Clear goal
- * Uses persuasion
- **★** Uses power
- * Knows the issues
- * May use emotion strategically

- ***** Is neutral
- * Takes no position
- * Focus on process
- * Parties solve problem
- * Levels playing field
- **★** Not an expert in field
- * Expresses emotion authentically



Why People Like ADR

- * Promotes quick and concrete agreements
- **★** Safe to express emotion
- ★ Perceived as fair, voluntary, confidential
- * Preserves relationships
- * Encourages creativity and ownership
- * Builds decision-making and conflict mgt skills
- * Allows parties to step outside of usual roles
- * Consistent with recovery and trauma-informed models



ADR Saves Money

"When it was all said and done, the mediation cost less than the postage bill had for the litigation."

J.W. Durham, general counsel Philadelphia Electric Co.



30 Seconds to Talk: An Exercise in Pairs



Skills of a Mediator



- * Accurate and Effective Listening.
- ***** Identifying and clarifying the issues.

Giving people an opportunity to tell their story

* Identifying power imbalances evidenced in:

Body language

Content and tone

Manner of speech

Interrupting or "talking over" the other person





Examples Of ADR In Mental Health

- **★ Community mediation services ME**
- **★ Consumer-family mediation** NH
- **★** Alternative to grievance process VT, DC
- * Systems change strategy in childrens' system of care MO
- **★** Foster care mediation MD
- **★** State hospital mediation service AZ
- **★** Training for staff and consumers NM
- **★** Reconciliation (victim-offender mediation) AZ



Common Concerns About Mediation

- *Voluntariness
- *Access to legal review
- *Monitoring agreements
- *Role of mediators (facilitative / directive)
- *Role of people with psychiatric diagnoses
- **★** Is it possible to balance power when legal mechanisms can be invoked?



Reconciliation and Forgiveness

★Particularly relevant to trauma

*****Clinically sensitive but powerful

*ADR versus indigenous processes:
Sulha



Conflict Management Skills

Where does case management end and conflict management begin?



Communication Skills

Creating a Conducive Environment Listening and Attending Asking Questions Inviting Dialogue Responding to **Complaints**





- Stop what you are doing
- Make eye contact
- Reflect back what you hear people say
- Use people-first language
- Use language that is free of jargon



Find their own solutions

Help others to find their own answers

Avoid temptation to resolve the issue for others

Recognize your own investment and biases

Talk with each party separately
Help parties talk together
Follow-up with both parties
"Tweak" agreement as necessary



How to Contact CCMMH

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